

**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

On the HEALTH of the  
Urban Sanitary District of the Borough  
of Bacup during 1918,

— BY —

**J. PERCIVAL BROWN,**

**M.B., Ch.B., Vict.,**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**

Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer.

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**BACUP:**

Martin Holt, Printer & Stationer, Market Street.



# THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Consists of the following Members :

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MRS. S. FLOOD,

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„ S. HEYS.

The Maternity Sub-Committee consists of the lady members only, with Mrs. M. Hargreaves as Chairman.



## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1918.

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Bacup.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting you with my Annual Report for 1918, which, though it is condensed as suggested by the Local Government Board for printing economy by not including many of the usual tables, yet those tables have been prepared and used for its preparation.

Influenza Report with special tables, special five years table A of Vital Statistics, which have been corrected for the different years, owing to some birth, death, and population figures being forwarded by the Registrar General after reports went to printers, a report on Infantile Mortality and how it has been specially affected by war conditions, and Infectious Diseases during the year 1918, are the chief features in the report.

The rateable value of the Borough on April 1st, 1918, was £89,191.

The Registrar General's latest population estimates are used—21,442 for birth-rate, and 19,235 for death-rate, to which in Table A. 1917 rates are corrected.

The births were 273—males 132, females 141, being at the rate of 12·7 per 1000 birth-rate. There were 19 illegitimate births—males 9, females 10.

The provisional birth-rate for England and Wales for 1918 was 17·7 per 1000.

The corrected deaths were 381—males 188, females 193, being 19·8 per 1000 for the year.

The provisional death-rate for England and Wales for 1918 was 18·1 per 1000.

The deaths occurred in the following age groups:—

Under 1 year	...	...	40
1 and under 2 years		...	20
2 „ „ 5 „		...	22
5 „ „ 15 „		...	14
15 „ „ 25 „		...	19
25 „ „ 45 „		...	61
45 „ „ 65 „		...	94
65 years and upwards		...	111
Total			<hr/> 381

The causes of death are in Table A.

The Infectious Diseases notified or ascertained are in Table B.

### ENTERIC FEVER.

Two cases occurred in the same house, there being a polluted private water supply which was cut off and town's water put in. Both recovered, one being treated in hospital.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Thirteen cases occurred, there being no deaths.

## MEASLES.

There were 471 Measles and 8 German Measles. Measles cases were in following age groups:—under 1 year, 15 cases (deaths 2); 1 and under 5 years, 202 cases (deaths, 1 and under 2 years, 5); 5 and under 15 years, 246 cases (1 death); 15 and under 25 years, 4 cases; 25 and under 45 years, 4 cases.

Measles and German Measles were first notified in 1916, when there were 15 deaths out of 429 Measles, whilst in 1918 there were 8 deaths out of 471 Measles. The mortality is lower than for some time, but there were 7 deaths under 2 years of age. There is no doubt but that Measles, like Whooping Cough, was responsible for several infants and children under 5 years dying during the year, though such were not on the Death Certificates, in some cases owing to no doctor being called in for the first illness. The disease slowly spread over the whole Borough during most of the year, the worst months being: August, 43 cases; September, 155; October, 74; November, 41; December, 48. Western C. Infant School and Tunstead C.E. Infant School were closed from September 24th to October 7th.

## WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease was very prevalent during March, April, and May, causing 17 deaths—under 1 year, 7; 1 and under 2 years, 5; 2 and under 5 years, 3. As in the case of Measles, I believe death returns give too low a number of deaths from this disease. Eight out of 40 deaths under 1 year, and 10 out of 20 deaths 1 and under 2 years were put down as due to Measles or Whooping Cough, but only 2 out of 21 deaths 2 and under 5 years, and this in a year when there was not a single death from Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria. The disease is far more dangerous than just the 17 valuable lives

lost might appear, for many cases of ill-health for years are traceable to it.

The loss of about 60 lives from Influenza was spread chiefly over 30 years, from 15 to 45 years of age, whilst in Whooping Cough 17 deaths and many permanently damaged lives occurred amongst young children, the most important asset of the country, which ought to make parents more careful than to take such cases to the market house, shops, trams, and places of entertainment. A cough in young children without at first much sign of Bronchitis is very suspicious, and parents should remember that such a case may be infecting other children, it being very infectious in the early stage.

#### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were four cases in the practices of three different midwives. One case was sent into hospital for treatment.

#### CHICKEN-POX.

This disease was especially prevalent in January and February, 56 cases notified during the year.

#### MUMPS.

This disease was very prevalent in June, July and December, and whilst not dangerous to life, affected school attendance a good deal. There were several cases in adults.

#### PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Special posters were put up about prevention of Epidemic Catarrh and Influenza.

Most diseases (such a mixture as Measles, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Consumption, Sore Throat,



Ordinary Cold in the head, Epidemic Catarrh, and Influenza), are spread by discharge from the mouth and nose, as well as ear discharge, all of which easily infect toys, pillows, handkerchiefs, etc. Germs are spread over a wide area when coughing or sneezing, therefore people should take care when they cough, etc., also not to spit, and not to suck pens, pencils, toys, shuttles, or tools used by other people.

I would specially urge the importance of vaccination to prevent small-pox.

### THE CHIEF CONSTABLE REPORTS:

“COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.—There are 3 Registered Common Lodging-houses in the Borough and the Police continue their daily visits to these premises.”

“FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.—25 samples of food and drugs were obtained and submitted to the Borough Analyst for analysis under the above mentioned Acts, and the samples were all certified as genuine. Twelve samples were ‘informal’.”

### THE BOROUGH SURVEYOR REPORTS:

“No new streets have been paved;  
 No new houses have been built;  
 38 houses have been put on the town's water supply;  
 About 400 yards 6" sewer have been laid from Huttock Top to Newchurch Road.”

### LABORATORY REPORTS.

PROF. DELÉPINE has made the following examinations during the year:—Typhoid Fever 4, all negative; Spectrum for Tubercle Bacilli 15; 1 positive Water; 7 Bacteriological; 3 Chemical.

## RESPIRATORY DISEASES

Which include Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other Diseases of Respiratory Organs except Tuberculosis, caused 103 deaths at 5.35 per 1000 death-rate of population, instead of between 3 and 4 per 1000 in most years. Infectious Diseases and Influenza account for this increase. I can only find one worse year, viz. 1891, 7.53 per 1000, (1892 being 5.33 per 1000), both of which were Influenza epidemic years. The Influenza deaths in those years were not separated out but mostly grouped under Respiratory Diseases, and had the same been done for 1918 the rate would be 7.43 per 1000, including those residents who died away from home. Prevention of Respiratory Diseases is discussed under Influenza.

Adenoids, enlarged tonsils, breathing with mouth open, and defective teeth make children, as well as adults, much more liable to Respiratory Diseases and Influenza. I consider that to some extent there is a greater risk in a town like ours compared with neighbouring towns much nearer the sea level, for in a mountainous town practically as regards this country, more food, especially fats, and warmer clothing are required to keep up the body temperature, also owing to cold atmosphere, if a room is to be warm and ventilated properly, more fuel is required. Without good ventilation and sufficient fuel the great danger in the district is a vitiated atmosphere, the strongest predisposing cause of Respiratory Diseases.

Deaths in the Borough, grouped according to age.

	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and up- wards
Influenza—37	—	—	3	—	6	15	10	3
Bronchitis—46 (Primary)	1	3	3	2	1	2	11	23
Pn'monia—45 (Primary)	1	5	6	6	6	8	10	4

## BRIGHT'S DISEASE.

In Table A. it will be seen that mortality in 1914 and 1915 was very heavy compared with other years, as it also was with previous years. Excitement and overwork probably in 1914 and 1915 had something to do with heavy mortality, whilst since then lessened meat diet has certainly been good for many such cases. With care, many people with kidney disease could live for years; a woollen body belt being of great value in preventing chills over the loins. Every year one must allow for a large number of cases not certified as such, but as from secondary causes, such as Cerebral Apoplexy, Heart Disease, and Bronchitis.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The arrangements for Sanatoria and Hospitals continue to be satisfactory and there is no difficulty in getting cases treated.

## INFLUENZA.

I have prepared Table C., which gives for each week in the year the total deaths for both sexes according to age groups of those from Influenza, primary cases of Bronchitis, and primary cases of Pneumonia. The totals in some cases will vary from Table A., as Table C. only includes the deaths which occurred in the Borough.

In the 25th week of year ending June 22nd, there were 2 deaths from Influenza and 2 from Pneumonia, a small number in proportion to the outbreak of Influenza which started about June 15th at the Stacksteads end of the Borough, affecting school children especially 8 years old first, and in the infant schools too. Within a few days the older scholars were attacked and every school in the Borough affected. During the same period it had rapidly spread amongst

adults, and 10, 20, or more of a morning kept leaving off their work, which, though out of sorts, they had tried to perform. From June 21st to July 8th, the schools were closed and many slipper works and cotton mills had to close down partially, or in some cases altogether.

In the week ending June 29th, out of 13 deaths 4 were Influenza and 6 were Bronchitis or Pneumonia. Then came the worst week, ending July 6th, when out of 26 deaths 14 were Influenza 4 were Bronchitis or Pneumonia, and to show how quickly it died down in week ending July 13th, out of 15 deaths 5 were Influenza and 5 were Bronchitis or Pneumonia.

Respiratory symptoms and Catarrh of Nasal passages were prominent symptoms. Many of the Pneumonia cases were Broncho Pneumonia. Several cases of what appeared at first like Lobar Pneumonia did not have a proper crisis and had several patches of dullness on percussion. There were several cases which started off with very severe pleurisy pains and were typical pleuro-pneumonias, some of which had effusion, in a few cases followed by empyema. Epistaxis was a common symptom, especially in children. After effects in many cases were severe neuralgia of facial nerves, also nerves of the arm and sciatica. There were a few cases of Nephritis. A few cases had well marked cerebral symptoms. Phthisis followed a few cases. In many families the type varied a good deal, some only being mild nasal catarrh. The worst cases and most deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia occurred amongst the workers, 15 to 40 years of age, especially females. Children and older people gave up sooner and went to bed. Industrial fatigue and trying to fight against the disease cost the lives of many of the best workers. There were about 40 cases in the Auxiliary Military Hospitals, with no deaths, immediate rest in bed being

insisted on. Whole families went down and incubation period appeared to be about 2 or 3 days. No evidence of protection by previous attack, but rather the reverse. The slipper workers seemed to suffer the worst.

#### Deaths in the Borough.

Year	Total	Influenza	Bronchitis (Primary)	Pneumonia (Primary)	
1916	297	5	47	10	= 62
1917	271	2	43	16	= 61
1918	320	37	46	45	= 128

Deaths in the Borough in 1918 according to sex.

	Influenza	Bronchitis (Primary)	Pneumonia (Primary)	
Males	16	23	26	
Females	21	23	19	
Total	37	46	45	
Total	28	7	11	in seven weeks from June 15th to August 3rd, 1918.

During the year I consider about 60 deaths were due to Influenza. Some of the earliest cases were probably only certified as Bronchitis or Pneumonia. In a few cases, cases of Phthisis, death was hastened on by it. Through the press precautionary advice was given. In November special posters were put up. Voluntary exclusion of children from picture houses was carried out. The doctors were kept very busy and considering everything the mortality was lower than one might have expected.

Epidemics of any kind always throw a great strain upon the medical service of any town, whether doctors are away in the army or not, and doctors being human and only able

to do a certain amount of work at such times, messages for visiting should be sent in early, the surgery hours read and kept to as far as possible.

The public during the first week got such a scare that they were only too willing to avoid public gatherings.

Including the mildest catarrhs, of which there were many cases, and judging from number of school children affected, as well as workshops and factories closed, I consider that about 8,000 people had Epidemic Catarrh or Influenza in June and July outbreak, so that in any serious outbreak we must look upon the persons who might be infected, as running into several thousand, or perhaps 30 to 40% of population. This is a point to remember when prevention by prophylactic vaccines is considered, for in many cases a few injections would be required, the dose to be specially regulated too, also as bacteriology is very indefinite, 4 or 5 different bacteria might have to be used. All this would have to be started off as soon as first cases appeared in the district, and how often such a heavy expenditure, running into thousands of pounds for vaccines alone, besides value of doctors' time in dealing with thousands of people, would depend upon how long the protection from infection lasted, which would be probably only short, perhaps 6 months, judging by second attacks of the disease. The use of vaccines is quite different to that of lymph vaccination against small-pox when the single dose does for everybody, and only requires one operation, which protects for years.

The dividing lines, if there are any, between cold in the head, Catarrh, and Influenza, are so difficult to define that the safety of the public depends largely upon the common-sense treatment of the patient, and the common-sense behaviour of the patient towards the public. There is danger of



not recognising these facts and expecting a serum to do away with the care of the doctor and the responsibility too of the person even with a slight cold.

The film exhibited at the local picture houses, "Dr. Wise on Influenza," put into picture form much sound advice similar to that issued by many Medical Officers of Health in poster form, which summed up, is get to bed, carry out the doctor's orders, don't infect other people by coughing or breathing in their faces, fresh air. (Special vaccine treatment may be of value in a few cases when prepared from patient's own discharges, but much can be done by drug treatment by doctors, and nursing).

When Influenza was very prevalent in all surrounding districts in December, we had an outbreak amongst workers and young school children about the middle of December, chiefly Stacksteads end of the Borough. Two infant schools were closed and the epidemic soon died out. Mortality was very low. Several of the cases in children had marked gastro-intestinal symptoms, which was also noticeable in June outbreak. I do not consider it represented really a different mixed infection, but was rather due to the closer relationship between chest and abdominal diseases which exists in children. [In the severe epidemics of 1891 and 1892 in this Borough it was reported that four children were attacked, but in November and December, 1893, in a very general epidemic in the Borough it was very mild, only three deaths, but large numbers of children were attacked. The low mortality was attributed to treating disease seriously, early bed and good nursing. A poster somewhat like those used by Sanitary Authorities to-day had been put up in February, 1892]. Mumps and Measles were very prevalent at the same time and I consider that July scare had a beneficial effect in bed at once, good nursing and doctor being called

in early. Under Influenza regulations the picture houses were closed to school children. When plans for new picture houses and theatres are considered it is most important to see that besides being ventilated they can at times be flooded with sunlight. Owing to crowded state of trams, trains and places of entertainment due to the war, I believe many people have had a big dose of vitiated air, as well as a large dose of very mixed germs. Dr. Woods Hutchinson some time ago revised an old proverb as: "When sunlight comes in at the window the pneumonia causes flies 'up the flue,'" which I would further revise as: "When fresh air comes in at the window the influenza bacillus 'flies up the chimney.'"

Phthisis cases when treated by sunlight and fresh air don't develop Pneumonia, nor do they develop cold in the head. Lung tissues can stand cold fresh air, but not vitiated warm germ laden air. Pneumonia cases do best in well ventilated rooms, with plenty of cool fresh air even as long the body is kept warm.

I was pleased to see that some British Bacteriologists have probably found the Influenza and other important Bacilli, which will be of great value, but it must not make people think precautions are not necessary and that at once preventive and curative serums can be easily satisfactorily used in all cases.

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH (VENEREAL REGULATIONS) 1916.

The Lancashire County Council scheme for diagnosis and treatment is in operation in this Borough and is being used by patients with good results in the confidential way intended.



The question of prevention just now is engaging the attention of the nation. Judicious explanation of what is right, and the dangerous nature of these diseases are very necessary. The new Education Act in encouraging young people to spend leisure time in self improvement will do good together with healthy sport and exercise, for in my opinion the great danger lies in too much leisure time from 15 to 19 years of age, with no ambition as regards self improvement. If hours of labour are shortened for old and young alike, then they must take an interest in something besides pleasure to stamp out this evil. Proper housing, with sanitary conveniences and sufficient bed-rooms will do much to raise the moral tone of manufacturing towns, as well as country districts. These diseases have their effect on still-birth etc., as well as as infantile mortality.

Patients are told how to avoid infecting other people, but in case of their carelessness, I do think the more the public know of the danger they run the better, and certainly no one should use a pipe or anything which anyone else has had to their lips.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY, MATERNITY, ETC.

There were 40 deaths—males 23, females 17, the infantile mortality being 146 per 1000, a great increase on the past few years. Tables A. and IV., together with following remarks *re* war and infectious diseases will explain the heavy mortality this year.

Still-births notified (after 28th week) were :—

		Males		Females
1916	...	15	...	8
1917	...	6	...	5
1918	...	7	...	7

17 deaths occurred during first month after birth, at the rate of 62·3 per 1000 births. This is the period when care and feeding are so important and when, as Dr. Newsholme, Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, says so much is preventable as shown by the Registrar General's Report of 1911.

Death-rate in first month after birth per 1000 births, children of:—

Medical Practitioners	...	...	...	20·2
Highest, upper and middle classes	...	...	...	30·2
General Labourers	...	...	...	47·1
Costermongers	...	...	...	49·6
Railway Pointsmen, Masons' Labourers	...	...	...	51·1

Fertility Rates and Rates of Infantile Mortality in different Social Strata (% of deviation from corresponding rates for England and Wales).

	Fertility Rate per cent.	Rate of Infant Mortality per cent.	No. of deaths in different classes for 1918
I. Upper & Middle Classes	—27	—39	1
II. Intermediate Classes ...	—19	—15	1
III. Skilled Workmen ...	—6	—10	3
IV. Intermediate Class ...	—2	—3	1
V. Unskilled Workmen ...	+31	+22	7
VI. Textile Workers ...	—23	+19	26
VII. Miners ...	+42	+26	1
VIII. Agricultural Labourers	—1	—22	0
All Classes ...	100	100	

This table, which I use from the Registrar General's Report of 1911, showed in 1914 that out of 53 infant deaths 7 were in Class I. to IV. and 46 in Class V. to VIII. the majority of which were in Class VI., one with a low Fertility Rate but a high Infantile Mortality Rate. I have

given in the above table the number of deaths in each group for 1918, there being 6 in I. to IV. and 34 in V. to VIII. out of 40. In spite of such a large proportion of our population being in Class VI. our Infantile Mortality Rate from 1914 to 1917 was relatively good compared with that for England and Wales given in Table A.

Congenital Malformation, Premature Birth, Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus in Table IV. show 23, *i.e.* about 8 per 100 births, the average for the country generally being 4, our average in 1917 being 5 per 100. I attribute much of this as due to war conditions causing premature birth, also Influenza epidemic caused several, in which cases mother and child had a bad start. The same thing is noticeable under diseases and accidents of Parturition, the country's average being 1 death for about 280 confinements, whilst we had 4 deaths for about 270. When mother and child start off normally, quantity as well as quality in food are necessary, both of which have been at their worst in 1918, especially as regards milk and fats. Measles caused 1 death and Whooping Cough 7 deaths. Some of the Marasmus and Atrophy cases were really secondary to these diseases, but not put so on death certificates, so that in my opinion nearly one-third of deaths under one year were really due to these diseases. More than in previous years, soldiers' wives had not got homes of their own but were living with children at parents or relations' houses, which at times must have had a bad effect on mother and child, who should have first consideration in the house.

One-third of the deaths took place in the first fortnight. I feel confident that when proper home life is again possible, for the recently married, with modern houses, and better food for nursing mothers and children obtained, many of the above kinds of deaths will be reduced.

I early realised that we were going to have difficulty with proper feeding of expectant mothers, nursing mothers, and infants, (and brought it before the necessary authorities), so that at the end of 1917 and beginning of 1918 many cases were helped through the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre by its own Dried Milk Powder Scheme, as well as Guardians, Soldiers and Sailors' Society and Food Control Office as regards money or obtaining necessary milk or foods, but for which things would have been much worse. Circular M. & C. W. 4, section 30, and recent Food Control Orders have made special provision easier for such cases.

There has been less breast-feeding during last two years owing to more mothers going out to work. Out of 40 deaths under 1 year, excluding 11 who died before 1 week old, there were 29 who died later, only 12 of which could be said to be breast-fed. In many cases it is difficult to get mothers to use boat-shaped bottles instead of bottles with tube which ought to be prohibited by law from being sold.

Especially in the early part of the year, expectant mothers, as well as nursing mothers, standing in queues and having difficulty in getting shopping done had a bad effect on mothers as well as on the care of babies and older children. Even with ration books, shopping is difficult, and mothers still go themselves to shops and must waste much time, whereas before the war orders were attended to, or older children could be sure to get what mothers required.

In considering what the natural increase by births of a district should be, one might say that in many cases, out of a possible 100 live births 10 are lost as still-birth etc., 10 in first year under infantile mortality, 10 from 1 to 5 years chiefly from infectious diseases, whilst out of the 70 then left probably 10, owing to illness which they just managed

to survive, as well as deformities etc. due to accidents or disease, are handicapped for life, leaving 60 sound lives, thus showing how necessary is the Maternity and Child Welfare work.

All births are followed up by Nurse Dixon, the Health Visitor, and her visits during 1918 have been according to table below.

Babies visited :—

Once	...	192	equals	192	visits
Twice	...	145	„	290	„
Three times		56	„	168	„
Four	„	32	„	128	„
Five	„	14	„	70	„
Six	„	10	„	60	„
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total babies visited		449	requiring	908	visits.
1917	„	„	„	402	„
	„	„	„	750	„

308 attendances were made at the Infant Welfare Centre during 1918. The Centre is open from 2-30 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, when I attend as Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer. The attendance was lessened by epidemics of Whooping Cough, Measles, and Influenza, which also stopped Baby Week being kept up except by press announcements, film pictures, etc.

## DISINFECTING AND CLEANSING STATION.

This place, with its arrangements for having hot baths, has proved itself most useful during the war for soldiers and civilians suffering from scabies or body-lice, contracted in many cases on active service.

I would specially thank Coun. J. H. Lord, J.P. (the

Chairman), and all the members of the Health Committee and its Sub-Committees for their appreciative co-operation with me in my work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. PERCIVAL BROWN,

M.B., Ch.B., Vict., M.O.H.

Burwood House,  
Bacup,

February 18th, 1919.



TABLE A.—Corrected for all Births and Deaths belonging to Borough.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	ESTIMATED POPULATION.				
	1914— 22,500 for Births and Deaths	1915— 21,325 for Births and Deaths	1916— 22,304 for Births 20,500 for Deaths	1917— 21,442 for Births 19,235 for Deaths	1918— 21,442 for Births 19,235 for Deaths
Enteric Fever ...	3	1	1	1	...
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	6	6	15	1	8
Scarlet Fever ...	5	3	...	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	8	1	...	...	17
Diphtheria and Croup	2	4	...	...	...
Influenza ...	...	6	6	3	40
Erysipelas ...	1	2	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	27	19	20	14	18
Tuberculous Meningitis	3	...	2	1	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	5	8	2	7	...
Cancer (malignant disease)...	23	26	15	29	21
Rheumatic Fever ...	6	2	1	...	1
Meningitis ...	6	1	...	2	1
Organic Heart Disease	39	26	39	39	32
Bronchitis ...	47	50	50	44	49
Pneumonia (all forms)	30	23	13	11	52
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...	5	4	3	3	2
Diarrhoea & Enteritis...	4	5	1	...	2
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	2	1	2	1	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	2	2	...	1	...
Alcoholism ...	1	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	19	22	12	13	11
Puerperal Fever ...	2	1	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	...	...	2	1	4
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	16	13	13	17	23
Violent Deaths (excluding Suicide)...	12	8	7	4	5
Suicide ...	1	...	1	4	1
Other Defined Diseases	119	125	137	121	92
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	9	8	2	2	3
Totals ...	403	362	344	320	381
Total Births ...	421	382	351	292	273
Infantile Mortality ...	125	99	99	102	146
Birth-rate ...	18·7	16·9	18·7	13·6	12·7
Death-rate ...	18·7	16·9	16·7	16·6	19·8
England and Wales } P'tile M'tality	105	110	91	97	97
Birth-rate ...	23·8	21·8	21·6	17·8	17·7
Death-rate...	13·7	14·8	14·0	14·4	18·1

TABLE B.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	Treated in Hospital
Enteric Fever ... ..	6	2	3	5	2	1
Small-pox ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	1	1	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	193	57	12	19	13	—
Diphtheria ... ..	17	10	11	3	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	31	27	36	22	25	1
Chicken-pox ... ..	37	92	40	111	56	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	14	4	6	3	3	1
Measles ... ..	—	—	429	22	471	2
German Measles ... ..	—	—	5	23	8	—
Phthisis ... ..	41	30	31	15	19	*20
Non-Pulmonary Tub'culosis	17	42	34	25	13	5
Puerperal Fever ... ..	2	2	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	2	—	—	—

\* Included some cases notified in 1917.



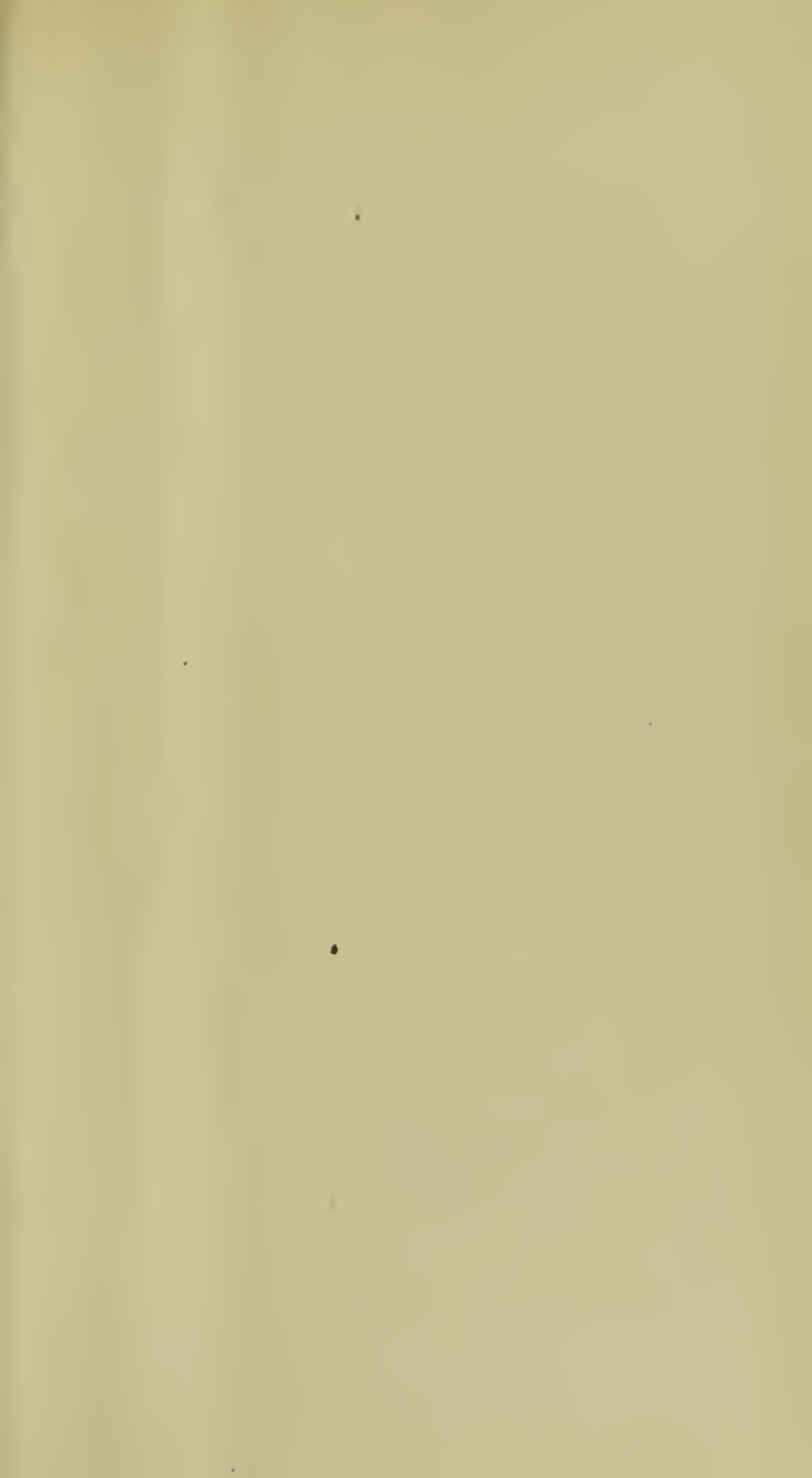


				MALES.															
				Deaths from all causes	Under 1 year		1 and under 2 years		2 and under 5 years		5 and under 15 years		15 and under 25 years		25 and over				
					*	I.	B.	P.	I.	B.	P.	I.	B.	P.	I.	B.	P.		
1st week of year ending Jany. 5				3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
2nd " " " 12				8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
3rd " " " 19				10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
4th " " " 26				8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
5th " " Feby. 2				8	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	
6th " " " 9				3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
7th " " " 16				8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
8th " " " 23				9	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
9th " " March 2				4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	
10th " " " 9				6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	
11th " " " 16				8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
12th " " " 23				9	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
13th " " " 30				6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
14th " " April 6				6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
15th " " " 13				4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
16th " " " 20				5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
17th " " " 27				7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
18th " " May 4				4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
19th " " " 11				7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
20th " " " 18				7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
21st " " " 25				8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
22nd " " June 1				8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
23rd " " " 8				7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
24th " " " 15				4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
25th " " " 22				6	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
26th " " " 29				13	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	I	...	
27th " " July 6				26	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	I	...	...	I	...	
28th " " " 13				15	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	
29th " " " 20				7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
30th " " " 27				7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
31st " " Aug. 3				10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
32nd " " " 10				3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
33rd " " " 17				3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
34th " " " 24				6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
35th " " " 31				3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
36th " " Sept. 7				2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
37th " " " 14				2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
38th " " " 21				2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
39th " " " 28				6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
40th " " Oct. 5				1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
41st " " " 12				5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
42nd " " " 19				2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
43rd " " " 26				3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
44th " " Nov. 2				3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
45th " " " 9				2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
46th " " " 16				3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
47th " " " 23				6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
48th " " " 30				8	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
49th " " Dec. 7				6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
50th " " " 14				6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
51st " " " 21				3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
52nd " " " 28				4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
				320	...	...	I	...	I	I	2	...	4	...	5	2	...	I	

\* I.—Influenza. B.—Primary Bronchitis. P.—

## 7 Pneumonia.







# DURING THE YEAR 1918.

## VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
2	15	7	5	2	9	38
..	2	..	..	..	..	2
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	1	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	1	1	5	7
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	1	...	1
...	...	1	...	...	...	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	1	...	...	1
...	...	2	...	...	1	3
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	9	1	...	...	...	10
2	6	3	2	...	2	13
...	1	...	1	...	...	2
3	17	7	5	2	9	40

Nett Deaths in the Year of {
   
 legitimate infants, Males 21, Females 16
   
 illegitimate infants, Males 2, Females 1.





**Borough**



**of Bacup.**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

— OF THE —

**Sanitary Inspector,**

**Arthur E. Barnes,**

A.M.R.S. Inst. (by exam.);

Member of Incorp. Assoc. San. Inspectors

Hons. Cert. Plumbing, Hygiene, &c.

**For the Year ended December 31st, 1918.**

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**BACUP:**

**Martin Holt, Printer & Stationer, Market Street.**

# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# SANITARY INSPECTOR

### FOR 1918.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit my Seventeenth Annual Report, giving details of the work done by the Sanitary Department during the year 1918.

From the perusal of this Report it will be seen that a large amount of work is being done, when it is considered that the work of the Sanitary Department increases each year and additional duties are being put upon us.

#### SUMMARY OF WORK.

Visits and Re-visits to Houses	...	...	...	1871
Notices and Letters served	...	...	...	327
Workshop Inspections	...	...	...	185
Slaughter-houses and Offensive Trade Inspections				334
Cowsheds Inspections	...	...	...	139
Rooms Disinfected, including 34 Schools	...	...		129
Drain Tested (by Smoke)	...	...	...	1
Complaints received	...	...	...	104
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	17
Visits paid to Infected Houses	...	...	...	298
Steam Disinfector used on 70 occasions.				

## DRAINS TESTED (by Smoke).

Drains at 1 dwelling-house have been tested by smoke; defects were found.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Frequent inspections have been made of premises and shops where food is prepared or kept for sale; the food which came under my observation was found to be sound but not of the quality usually sold in our Borough.

The whole of the Butchers, Fishmongers, Fruiterers, and other tradesmen's premises have been kept under close and frequent supervision; also, the Market has been visited twice weekly.

## UNSOUND FOOD DESTROYED.

One Carcase of Beef	...	
Bacon (3 pieces)	...	44 lbs.
Beef	...	62½ lbs.
Liver	...	6 lbs.
Three Hams	...	69½ lbs.
60 Tins of Condensed Milk		
5 Tins of Boiled Beef	...	30 lbs.
1 Tin of Corned Beef	...	6 lbs.
3 Ox Tongues	...	18 lbs.
6 Pigs	...	

During the year I carried out some experiments in sterilizing unsound food-stuffs in the steam disinfecter so as to render same suitable for poultry food. Sterilization was most satisfactory and the food was disposed of to an expert poultry keeper who stated it was excellent.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

During the war, slaughtering of cattle has been chiefly done in two slaughter-houses conveniently situated for our Borough. From a sanitary, economic and humanitarian point of view, if this practice was continued during peace times it would be better both for the butchers and the town, and the two slaughter-houses which have been used could be adapted for the purposes. This could be done by the butchers themselves without any expense to the Borough.

Fifty-nine permits have been granted during the year allowing persons to slaughter the following animals on premises not licensed as slaughter-houses, viz. : - 113 Pigs, 8 Cows, and 1 Sheep. One cannot supervise these premises as satisfactorily as the slaughter-houses, still we have some knowledge when and where the slaughtering takes place.

During the year an outbreak of swine-fever occurred at one of our farms among a herd of imported swine. Several of the pigs died, all the others were slaughtered with the exception of an "In-pig" sow. The dead pigs and internal organs of the others not affected were destroyed by burning.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number on Register—	Tripe Boilers	...	2	
“	“	Fat Melter	...	1
“	“	Knacker’s Yard	...	1
“	“	Fellmonger	...	1

## FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are 11 shops in the Borough for the sale of Fried Fish and Chip Potatoes. During the year several shops have been closed and others have discontinued cooking these food-stuffs.

### POTTED MEAT AND SAUSAGE MAKERS.

During the year the premises in which Sausages, Potted Meats and Food-stuffs were made were visited. In each case the utensils were found to be clean, the occupiers trying to produce these food-stuffs as cleanly as possible.

During the year I submitted a report on Pig-styes and Pig-keeping in the Borough, also one relating to Private Slaughter-houses.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

We have on our Register the following workshops—93, and 5 workplaces, viz.:—Kitchens of Restaurants, 4, Livery Stable Yard 1.

One hundred and eighty-five visits have been paid under the above Act, and several defects were noted and improvements effected. Four notices were served; in other cases the owners' or occupiers' attention was directed to the defects observed. One complaint respecting defects in Factories were received from H.M. Inspector, which were attended to. A report on the water supplies at the factories in which over 25 persons were employed was submitted.

### DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS AND MILK-SHOPS ORDER, 1885, AND REGULATIONS, 1907.

We have on our Register 118 Cow-keepers and Milk-sellers.

During the year 139 inspections were made. Three Farmers supply Milk in our Borough from an adjoining district. Two applications for Registration as Cow-keepers and Milk-sellers have been received during the year, all

being registered. The Cow-keepers registered are using premises previously occupied by Registered Cow-keepers. Some premises have been relet, the occupiers being exempt from registration, not being Milk-sellers.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Two hundred and ninety-eight visits were made to infected houses, enquiries made as to the cause or origin of the disease, instructions given with regard to the isolation of the infected persons, and disinfection of the infected articles etc. connected with the disease. Sanitary Pails, Disinfectants, and Carbolic Oil are supplied free. The Schools are sprayed with Izal or Formalin Disinfectant. Also Disinfectant Sawdust is supplied to the Schools.

In case the infected person was a child attending School, the School Authorities were informed and instructions given to keep all children from School until the Medical Attendant certified the children to be free from infection. One hundred and twenty-nine rooms, including thirty-four Schools, have been disinfected. The houses in which there were Tubercular Diseases were visited, and an offer made to disinfect. Four Books have been fumigated and returned to their owners. As the requests from occupiers of houses for the destruction of mattresses and beds are increasing yearly, and, the difficulties of burning them on our tips are great, some other means of destruction should be provided. One sample of water was taken for bacteriological examination, result—sewage polluted; notice served and town's water provided.

### STEAM DISINFECTOR AND CLEANSING STATION.

Fumigation of rooms in which have been infectious diseases is carried out by Sulphur Dioxide or Formic Aldehyde Gas. It is now the practice to remove on request or



with the consent of the owners, bedding, clothing, etc. after cases of infectious diseases, to the Steam Disinfector for disinfection. During the year 708 articles have been removed, disinfected, and returned to the owners, from houses in which had been cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Scabies, Cancer, Phthisis, and Scarlet Fever. Several parcels of Soldiers' clothes have also been disinfected. One hundred and twenty-four Baths have been given to school children.

#### CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

I have visited each part of the Borough, and am well acquainted with the Sanitary condition of the differently constructed Privies and Ash-pits. On account of difficulty of getting material and shortage of labour the work of converting pails to water closets has not been carried out as I would have liked. The weekly and bi-weekly collection of shop refuse in the central portion of the town has been well sustained, and I think has given general satisfaction. A few complaints have been received respecting charges for trade refuse, but when it is considered that a charge must be made, and this refuse is being removed at low cost, I do not see how these complaints will be avoided. Trade refuse has been reduced during the year. Considering the labour difficulties I consider the work of removing the refuse etc. in the Borough has been fairly satisfactorily carried out.

The following is the number of the various types of closets, ash-pits, etc. in the Borough, (this does not include isolated houses or several of our farm-houses in the outlying districts, which are emptied by the tenants themselves).

We have the following:—

Fixed Ash-pits in combination with Privies	12
--	----

Fixed Ash-pits not in connection with Privies	163
Moveable receptacles of galvanized iron, with covers ... ..	1594
Other moveable receptacles, boxes, buckets, casks, etc. (this is a varying quantity)	2889
Tippler Closets ... ..	448
Pail Closets ... ..	2168
Fresh Water Closets on Town's Water supply	1216
Houses, Shops and Chapels ... ..	150
Cesspools and Privies (6 abolished) ... ..	59

Your Sanitary Inspector gratefully recognises the valuable assistance he has received from the Chairman (Mr. Councillor J. H. Lord), and Members of the Health Committee, during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR E. BARNES,

A.M.R.S., Inst. (by exam.); Member San. Inspectors' Assoc.; Hons. Certs. Plumbing, Hygiene, etc.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.